Forest land across the canal of Sardar Sarovar Project

3355. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any forest land has come across the main canal of Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, how much;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has furnished proposal to the Government of India for release of forest land coming across the main canal of S.S.P.;

(d) if so, whether Government have issued any orders in that regard for release of the forest land coming across the main canal of S.S.P.; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the proposals furnished by Gujarat State Government, 29.722 ha. of forest land is required for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-I and 44.1499 ha. for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-II. In addition diversion of 1.40 ha. and 1.652 ha. of forest land at different locations are also required.

(c) Yes, Sir, Four different proposals have been furnished by the State Government of Gujarat.

(d) and (e) Out of 4 proposals, formal approval order for diversion of 29.722 ha. of forest land for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-I has been issued on 29-4-1992 and approval in principle for diversion of 44.1499 ha. of forest land for construction of Narmada Main Canal in Phase-II has been issued on 22-6-1992. The remaining two proposals for diversion of 1.40 ha. and 1.652 ha. forest land are pending with the State Government for furnishing certain essential lacking details.

Wildlife Trade

3356. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 29th November, 1992 under the caption "steps to control wildlife trade";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of steps taken including recent measures to tackle the phenomena; and

(d) what is the estimated number of cases of illegal wildlife trade and number of cases filed and decided upon during the last three years along with the details/ amendment if any proposed to the wildlife protection act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to appoint Army Officers as Honorary Wildlife Wardens in hospitable high altitude areas where civilian habitation is sparse and dispersed. Linkages have also been established with Coastguard, Custom Police and Revenue intelligence authorities for controlling the illegal trade. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, has been asked to arrange training programme for army officers.

Steps taken to tackle the illegal trade in wildlife include:

(i) Hunting of wild animals, for purposes other than protection of life, education, research and population management under Sections 11 and 12 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, has been banned.

(ii) Trade in wild animals included in Schedule-I and Part-II of Schedule-II of the Act is banned. The trade in